

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed 14 July 2004 has been received and considered. The claims of the application have been amended to place them in condition for allowance.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 103:

Claims 1-4 and 14-22 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being assertedly unpatentable over Willman in view of Piazza and Bridges. On page 3 of his Action the Examiner indicated that claims 5-9 and 11-13 would be allowable provided that they were rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitation of their base claim and any intervening claims. In view of the indications of the Examiner, applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitations of Claim 3. It follows that claim 1 as amended is, in essence, claim 3 rewritten to include all of the limitations of its base claim (claim 1). Since there were no intervening claims separating claim 3 from its base claim (claim 1), claim 1 as amended should now be condition for allowance. Claims 6-9, 11-12 and 14 all depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 amended. It follows that claims 6-9, 11-12 and 14 should also now be allowable.

Claims 3-4 also depend from claim 1 amended. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3-4 should now be allowable in view of their dependency from an allowable claim, namely claim 1 amended and further in view of the additional subject matter individually set forth in those claims.

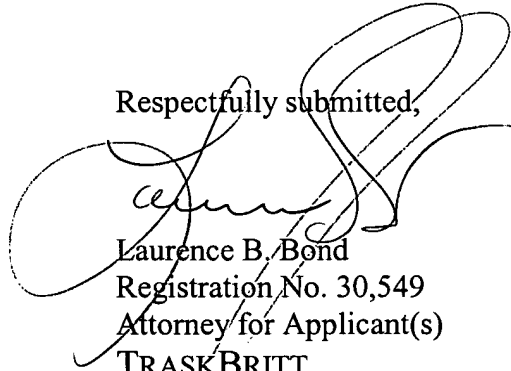
With reference to claims 2 and 13, Claim 2 has been amended to be in independent form. Claim 13 depends from claim 2 amended. As presently formatted, claim 2 (amended) requires the limitation of points, in solid cubic format, to be positioned on the external part of the boiling container. Applicant respectfully submits that none of the cited references, either individually or in combination, either teach or suggest such points or their placement on the external part of a boiling container. Further, claim 13 requires the positioning of notches in the serving container and the function of those notches to connect the serving container to the boiling container. Applicant respectfully submits that none of the cited references, either individually or in combination, teach or suggest the placement of such notches in the serving container. In view of these considerations, applicant submits that claims 2 and 13 distinguish over the cited art. Withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is therefore requested.

Claims 15-22 have been cancelled thereby rendering their rejection moot.

CONCLUSION:

In view of the amendments to the pending claims and the comments indicated above, applicant submits that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laurence B. Bond', is written over the typed name and registration information.

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